

PERCY MEEKS FARM
Worton, Maryland
(18th century)

K-231

The main house is two rooms deep and nearly square in plan. A one and one half story brick kitchen is a later 18th century addition. The main house has a water table which steps up over the basement windows, an unusual detail seen in several Chestertown houses but rare in the country side. The building was extensively remodeled during the Victorian period and most interior and exterior detailing dates from the 19th century.

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

PERCY MEEKS FARM

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South side of Route 298, about 3/4 miles west
of Worton

1st

CITY, TOWN

Worton

XX VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Kent

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME Wilson Meeks

Telephone #: 301-348-5178

STREET & NUMBER

RD#1, Box 272

CITY, TOWN

Worton,

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21678

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Kent County Court House

Liber #: EHP 80

Folio #: 148

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Maryland Historical Trust, Survey of Kent County

DATE

1968

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Maryland Historical Trust, The Shaw House, 21 State Circle

CITY, TOWN

Annapolis, Maryland

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

K-231

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Percy Meeks Farm is located on the south side of Route 298 about 3/4 miles west of Worton. The house is set back 1000 feet from the highway, facing north. Behind the house, but at some distance from it are a row of farm buildings. There are no formal gardens or plantings on the farm although the front yard is sheltered by old trees.

The house is brick. Two and one half stories tall the main house rests on a high foundation and has 4 bays long, 1½ story kitchen wing built on its gable. The main house is three bays (28'3½") wide and two rooms or 30'-6" deep while the wing measures 26-6 long and 18'5" deep. The front wall of the wing is continuous with the front wall of the main house although it partially covers an earlier window, indicating that it is an addition.

The brick walls of the main house are laid in Flemish bond. On all facades there is a water table which steps up over the basement windows. The water table itself is the stepped type and below it the brick is laid in Liverpool bond. Segmental brick arches of alternating stretchers and two headers are used above the first floor windows and doors. The second floor line is marked on the long facades by a two-course Flemish bond belt course. The brick walls of this building have undergone considerable rebuilding and repointing, most poorly done.

The wing has a low, stepped watertable on the front facade only. It has a Flemish bond facade, but 1 to 5 running bond walls elsewhere.

The main house has a side hall plan with front and rear entrance doors located in the east bays. These doorways have both been rebuilt with double Victorian period doors installed in the front entrance and the doorway moved a few inches to the east and a shed-roofed, enclosed entry porch added. Windows have 6/6 sash, probably of mid-19th century vintage, set in 1" bead type frames. Basement windows, located under but not in

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Percy Meeks House is a rather unusual 18th century country house for Kent County. Generally country houses are laid out either in a central hall or hall and parlour plan, not in the side hall layout of this structure. The watertable stepping over the basement windows and the use of Flemish bond on all facades is more common in Chestertown than in its hinterland.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Marsha L. Fritz, Survey Consultant

ORGANIZATION

Kent County Planning Commission

DATE

778-4600, ext. 67

STREET & NUMBER

Court House

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Chestertown, Maryland

STATE

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

line with the windows, have either been bricked in or changed to modern metal windows. Windows and a door have also been closed on the east gable of the main house, and a door in the bay, front, of the wing filled in.

On the front of the main house are a pair of handsome Federal dormers with 6 over 6 sash windows and a pilastered facade. The rear dormers are plainer but also have 6 over 6 sash and gable roofs. Shallow gable roofed dormers are used on the wing.

The roof of the main house was probably rebuilt in the 19th century. It has overhanging eaves with simple brown and red moldings in the rear and sawn-wooden bracketts in the front. The wing also has a decorated front cornice with a bold crown mold with a deep fascia and alternating long and short shaped dentils.

A 19th century porch across the entire front of the main house has a shop roof with shaped rafter ends and round columns on octagonal bases. On the rear of the wing is an enclosed, shep roofed porch of no architectural interest.

Like the exterior, the interior of the building was remodeled in the 19th century and virtually no early detail remains except portions of the early stair. This has a very gentle rise, 6" to each 12" tread, and lovely turned balusters. There is a diagonal beaded-board spandrel and console-shaped step bracketts. The handrail is molded, and made of walnut.

The parlours on the first floor originally had back to back fireplaces. The arches remain in the basement and a wide chimney projects from the gable. The fireplaces themselves have been removed and replaced with plain Victorian fireplaces set against the gable walls and roughly centered in the rooms.

Original flooring is exposed in some rooms. There is also Victorian graining on some interior doors.

1. STATE <u>Maryland</u> COUNTY <u>Kent</u> TOWN <u>Worton</u> VICINITY <u>Lynch</u> STREET NO. <u>Rt 298, 1 mile west of Lynch</u> ORIGINAL OWNER ORIGINAL USE <u>dwelling</u> PRESENT OWNER <u>Percy Meeks -</u> PRESENT USE <u>dwelling</u> WALL CONSTRUCTION <u>Brick</u> NO. OF STORIES <u>2 1/2 + 1 1/2</u>		HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY INVENTORY <u>K-231</u>	
2. NAME <u>Percy Meeks Farm</u> DATE OR PERIOD <u>early 18th Cent.</u> STYLE <u>Colonial</u> ARCHITECT BUILDER		3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE	
4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION OPEN TO PUBLIC <u>NO</u> <p> The Meeks House is a 2 1/2 story brick dwelling, 3 bays long and 2 bays deep with a long 1 1/2 story brick kitchen wing. The 2 1/2 story section has a stepped water table which jogs above the basement windows, and a belt course between floors. There are segmental arches above the windows and the door. The The entrance is located on the east side of the north facade. The north and west sides are laid in Flemish bond. There are 2 fine Federal clammers on the north side of the 'A' roof with fluted pilasters and arched upper sash. Off the east gable is a long, 4 bay, 1 1/2 story, brick wing which has a lean-to on the south facade. </p> <p> The 2 1/2 story portion is unusually tall for houses in the area and resembles the McDowells farm in Stillpond. </p>			
5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE Endangered <u>NO</u> Interior Exterior <u>fair</u>			
6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)		7. PHOTOGRAPH	
8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages) INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC. <u>Forman, H.C., Early Manor and Plantation Houses</u> <u>1934, p 217 - "Old House near</u> <u>another Burying Ground"</u>		9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER <u>Michael Bourne</u> DATE OF RECORD <u>Sept 23, 1968</u>	

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION AND PHOTOGRAPHS MAY BE ADDED ON SHEET OF SAME SIZE

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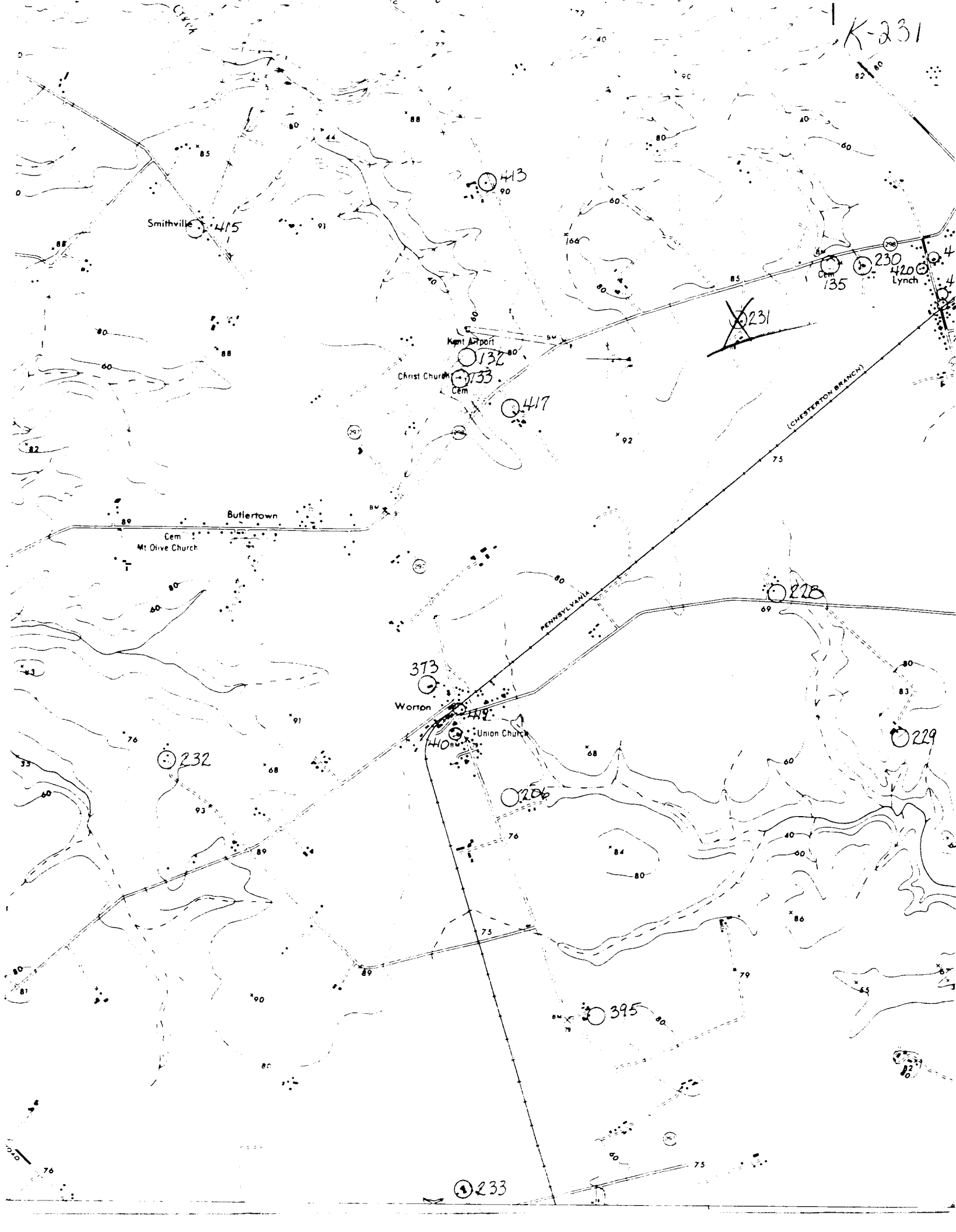
See photographs

Source

The Meeks House is a $2\frac{1}{2}$ story brick dwelling, 3 bays long and 2 bays deep with a long $1\frac{1}{2}$ story brick kitchen wing. The $2\frac{1}{2}$ story section has a stepped water table which jogs above the basement windows, and a belt course between floors. There are segmental arches above the windows and the door. The entrance is located on the east side of the north facade. The north and west sides are laid in Flenish bond. There are 2 fine federal dormers on the north side of the "A" roof with fluted pilesters and arched upper sash. Off the east gable is a long, 4 bay, $1\frac{1}{2}$ story, brick wing which has a leanto on the south facade.

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Percy Meeks Farm

View to Northeast

Worton, Kent County

M. L. Fritz 7/1980

J. Tyler Campbell
FREE-LANCE PHOTOGRAPHY
CHESTERTOWN, MARYLAND

MAY 21 1980